

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Action, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Flumignan (US 4,771,141). In view of the rejections, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the features of the invention. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to correct clerical errors. New claims 10 and 11 have been filed.

As recited in claim 1, a latch device of the invention comprises a housing; a movable member axially slidably disposed in the housing to move between a lock position and an unlock position relative to the housing and having front and back surfaces; an urging member disposed in the housing for urging the movable member in a direction to project from the housing; a switch disposed in the housing for turning on and off according to a position of the movable member in the housing; and a push-push type lock mechanism disposed in the housing for locking and unlocking the movable member inside the housing. The switch has a first switch attached to the movable member and a second switch attached to the housing. In the invention, when the movable member is in the lock position, the first switch contacts the second switch. When the movable member is in the unlock position, the first switch is spaced from the second switch. Further, the push-push type lock mechanism includes first lock members disposed on the front and back surfaces of the movable member, and second lock members situated at sides of the housing facing the first lock members and locking and unlocking with the first lock members.

In particular, in the invention, the movable member axially slides in the housing between the lock position and the unlock position. The switch has the first switch attached to the movable member and the second switch attached to the housing. When the movable member is in the lock position, the first switch contacts the second switch. When the movable member is in the unlock position, the first switch is spaced from the second switch. Further, the push-push type lock mechanism includes the first lock members disposed on the movable member, and the second lock members situated at the housing facing the first lock members. Accordingly, with the push-push type lock mechanism of the invention, the movable

member is locked and unlocked relative to the housing.

Flumignan discloses a push-push electrical switch. The switch uses a push/turn actuator having an axially movable button engaging a rotary actuator. In Figs. 1 and 2, a switch assembly 10 includes a housing 12; an elongated push button 22 axially slidably received in a bore 20 formed in a barrel 18; a compression spring 92 for urging an actuator 74 axially toward the push button 22; a terminal 32 provided in a connecting ear 34; and a rotor 96 rotating inside a bore 86 formed in the actuator 74 and having two cams 102a and 102b. The push button 22 includes a cam surface 68 formed by teeth 70, and the actuator 74 includes a cam surface 78 formed by teeth 80. When the push button 22 is pushed into the housing 12, the actuator 74 is rotated through an engagement between the cam surfaces 68 and 78, thereby rotating the rotor 96 connected to the actuator 74. When the rotor 96 is rotated, the cams 102a and 102b push the terminal 32 for the switching operation with blades 44a and 44b.

In Flumignan, the terminal 32 and the blades 44a and 44b are attached to the housing 12, and the rotor 96 rotates to turn on and off the terminal 32. In the invention, the switch has the first switch attached to the movable member and the second switch attached to the housing. The switch is turned on and off according to a position of the movable member axially slidably disposed in the housing.

In Flumignan, when the push button 22 is pushed in once, the rotor 96 rotates to turn the switch on, and the push button 22 returns to the original position. When the push button 22 is pushed in again from the original position, the rotor 96 rotates to turn the switch off, and the push button 22 returns to the original position. Accordingly, the push button 22 is always located at the original position regardless of the state of the switch. In the invention, the movable member axially slides in the housing between the lock position and the unlock position. When the movable member is in the lock position, the first switch contacts the second switch. When the movable member is in the unlock position, the first switch is spaced from the second switch.

In Flumignan, there is no disclosure of the switch having the

first switch attached to the movable member and the second switch attached to the housing. Further, in Flumignan, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the switch turning on when the movable member is in the lock position, and turning off when the movable member is in the unlock position.

In Flumignan, when the push button 22 is pushed into the housing 12, the actuator 74 is rotated through the engagement between the cam surfaces 68 and 78, thereby rotating the rotor 96 connected to the actuator 74. However, this mechanism does not lock the push button 22 relative to the housing 12. In the invention, the push-push type lock mechanism includes the first lock members disposed on the front and back surfaces of the movable member, and the second lock members situated at sides of the housing facing the first lock members and locking and unlocking with the first lock members. Accordingly, with the push-push type lock mechanism, the movable member is locked relative to the housing. In Flumignan, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the push-push type lock mechanism including the first lock members disposed on the movable member and the second lock members situated at the housing.

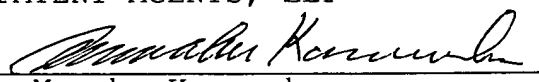
Therefore, Flumignan does not disclose or even suggest the features of the invention recited in claim 1.

As explained above, the cited reference does not disclose or suggest the features of the invention. With the amendments, the application is believed in condition of allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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